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## Senate spy report an anti-climax

From our own Correspondent, Washington, April 26

The long saga of recent disclosure about the Central Intelligence Agency ended today in anticlimax with the release of the first part of the Senate Intelligence Committee's final report.

It contained 87 recommendations, most of which involved bureaucratic changes in the system of overseeing the secret agency or asked for curbs on practices which the Administration says have already stopped. A second report on the Federal Bureau of Investigation, expected later this week, may contain new material.

In a final flurry of drama this morning, the committee went into closed session to plead with the CIA's new director, Mr George Bush, for permission to release the full figure of intelligence costs at home and abroad. But he refused on the grounds that to divulge the figure could allow enemy countries to work out what the US was doing. The committee then voted by a narrow margin to put the issue of releasing the figure to a vote in the full Senate.

The committee, chaired by Senator Frank Church, who is now officially running for the Presidency, bowed to the Administration and deleted from its report three chapters on "cover," "espionage," and "budgetary oversight."

Its report goes over the

details of clandestine activities which have come out already in interim reports or in public testimony. Its principal recommendation is that Congress should enact charters for all intelligence agencies laying down what they may and may not do.

It calls for a ban on political assassinations — which Mr Ford says is now in force — and on efforts to subvert democratic governments or to give support to foreign police or security forces which engage in repression. But it does not outlaw all covert activities and leaves vague any definition of what subversion or support for repression are.

It calls for better oversight by the Executive, with the Attorney-General joining the National Security Council which approves covert activities. It calls for an improvement in the efficiency of the CIA and says that CIA agents abroad, as a result of the agency's own policy, have inadequate cover.

The abuse of the CIA and the FBI of counter-intelligence inside the US, where they have been shown to have infiltrated all kinds of radical and left-wing groups, has been one of the most controversial areas in the recent debate.

The committee ends up by being hopelessly split on what to do and says that questions remain on the scope and methods of counter-intelligence.